CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method of augmenting transient protein synthesis in a cell by delivering, directly to the cell, mRNA encoding ~~an~~ eukaryotic translation initiator ~~initiation factor functionally related to protein synthesis~~, thereby augmenting endogenous protein synthesis.

2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said delivering step includes intracellularly delivering the mRNA using a method selected from the group consisting essentially of gene gun delivery, particle acceleration delivery, and topical ~~devliery~~ delivery.

3. Canceled.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said delivering step includes particle acceleration of the mRNA to the cell.

5. Canceled.

6. Canceled.

7. (Currently amended) A method of augmenting transient protein synthesis in cells in need of increased protein synthesis including the step of directly intracellularly delivering mRNA encoding ~~a translational regulatory protein functionally related to protein production~~ an activator of a eukaryotic translation initiator to increase protein synthesis from endogenous eukaryotic translation initiator mRNA in the cells.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein said delivering step further includes delivering mRNA encoding the eukaryotic translation initiator ~~initiation factors~~ to increase protein synthesis.

9-20. Canceled.

21. (Currently amended) A method of augmenting ~~wound healing~~ collagen synthesis and tensile strength of wounds, including the steps of:

directly intracellularly delivering mRNA ~~functionally related to protein production~~ of a eukaryotic translation initiator; and

potentiating an increase in protein synthesis from endogenous cellular mRNA in the wound ~~from the delivered mRNA~~.

22. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein said potentiating step includes potentiating the increase in protein synthesis of epidermal growth factors from endogenous cellular mRNA in the wound ~~from the delivered mRNA~~.

23. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein said delivering step further includes directly intracellularly delivering mRNA encoding ~~a translational regulatory protein~~ an activator of the eukaryotic translation initiator to increase protein synthesis from endogenous mRNA in the wound.

24. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~23~~ 27, wherein ~~said delivering step further includes directly intracellularly delivering mRNA encoding~~ the translation initiation factor 4 is eIF4E ~~to increase protein synthesis from endogenous mRNA in the wound~~.

25-42. Canceled.

43. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the eukaryotic translation initiator is a eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4.

44. (New) The method according to claims 7 or 8, wherein the eukaryotic translation initiator is a eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4.

45. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein the eukaryotic translation initiator is a eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4.